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MINUTES

OF THE

FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

United Baptist Association,

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT

LIBERTY GROVE, ALEXANDER Co., N. C.,

October 15. 16. 17. 1863.

RALEIGH:

PRINTED AT THE BIBLICAL RECORDER OFFICE.

1863.

Proceedings.

The United Baptist Association met in its fourth annual session with the Liberty Grove church, October 15th, 1863. The Introductory sermon was preached by Elder Isaac Oxford from Revelations 2: 17.

After a short recess the Association was called to order by the Moderator of last year. Prayer by Elder James McNeal.

Letters from nine churches were presented and read.

Elected Elder Smith Furguson, Moderator, and R. L. Steele, Clerk.

Invited corresponding messengers, when Elder J. W. Ayers came forward with a letter and package of Minutes from the Roan Mountain Association; Elders R. H. Moody and E. A. Pot, from the Catawba River Association, and a parcel of Minutes from the Yadkin Association, but no messengers; all of whom received the right hand of fellowship and took seats with us.

Appointed the delegates of Liberty Grove church, a committee on Devotional Exercises who appoint to preach to-morrow Elders Green, McNeal and Ayers.

Appointed Brethren J. T. Shell and John Watts a committee on Finance, who made the following

REPORT.

Received from the churches,	$24 45
From former Treasurer,	35 65
From Brother Thomas Isbell,	1 00
	$61 10

The committee discharged.

Appointed Elders Isaac Oxford, James Reed, J. B. Green, James McNeal and J. T. Shell, with the Moderator and Clerk, a committee on Arrangement, corresponding messengers included.

On motion, adjourned until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder J. W. Ayers.

FRIDAY, Oct. 16th, 1863.

Met according to adjournment. Elder J. B. Green led in prayer in behalf of our country and the success of our cause.

Called the Roll of Delegates.

Read and corrected minutes of yesterday.

Called on committee of Arrangement which reported and was discharged.

Read Rules of Decorum.

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Appointed Elders I. Oxford and James Reed a committee on Resolutions.

Called on the Treasurer who reported satisfactorily. [See report in Appendix.]

Called on corresponding messengers to sister Associations and delegates to the Western Convention, who reported and were discharged.

Appointed correspondents as follows: To the Catawba River Association, Elders I. Oxford, J. B. Green and R. M. Steele, which will convene on Friday before the 2d Lord's day, in October, 1864, with the Long Creek Church, Gaston county, N. C. To the Roan Mountain Association, Elders James McNeal, Isaac Oxford, James Reed and Bro. James Eller, which will meet with the Pleasant Grove church, Yancey county, N. C., on Friday, before 2d Lord's day, in September, 1864, 8 miles north-east from Burnsville. To the Yadkin Association, Elder S. P. Smith, which will meet with the Fork church, Davie county, N. C. on Friday before the 1st Lord's day in October, 1864. To the Lebanon Association, Elders R Gentry, A. Johnston and S. Trivet. To the Jefferson Association, R. Gentry, A. Johnston and S. Trivet. To the Baptist State Convention, Elders James McNeal, James Reed, Isaac Oxford and R. L. Steele.

On motion, the following churches were stricken from our roll of churches viz: Mt. Zion, Walnut Grove, Beaver Creek, Lewis Fork, Pilgrim, Antioch and Macedonia, they being members of the Lewis Fork Association.

Took under consideration the churches which asked for indulgence for twelve months, when New Hope, Taylor Spring and Taylorsville satisfied the Association of their innocence of the charge made against them. Withdrew from King's Creek church.

Took up the query from Sardis church when the following was adopted: "We think it not expedient to answer it in its present form."

Took up the letter from the aggrieved party of Fishing Creek, when a special committee consisting of Elders R. H. Moody, E. A. Poe, J. W. Ayers, James Reed and I Oxford to report on to-morrow morning.

On motion, adjourned until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock. Prayer by Elder R. H. Moody.

SATURDAY, Oct. 17th, 1863.

Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder R. H. Moody.

Read and corrected minutes of yesterday.

Took up the unfinished business of yesterday, when the committee made their report, which was adopted. (See Appendix A.)

The Moderator announced the following standing committees:

On Temperance—Brother Peter Eller.

On Sabbaths Schools—Elder Isaac Oxford.

On Periodicals—Elder J. Reed.
On Missions—Elder J. McNeil.
On Colportage—Brother J. T. Shell.
On Education—Elder R. L. Steele.

The standing committees of last year made their reports, which were read and adopted. (See Appendix.)

Appointed the Clerk to superintend the printing of minutes and that he have $45 worth printed and distribute them, and he be allowed $15 for his services.

Called on the committee on Resolutions, who submitted their report which was adopted. (See Appendix.)

The Committee on Devotional Exercises reported for Sabbath, 1st. Elder R. H. Moody to preach a Denominational sermon; 2d., Elder E. A. Poe a Missionary sermon, after which a collection will be taken for Army Colportage; Elder J. Reed to close.

Appointed Elder James McNeil Missionary to ride in the bounds of this Association twelve months, and agree to pay him eight hundred dollars, or in that proportion for what time he may ride, when the following pledges were made for his support: Elder I. Oxford, $10 paid; Elder J. Reed, $15; Elder J. H. West, $10; Elder J. B. Green, $20 paid; Brother B. Watt, $10; Elder R. L. Steele, $10 paid; Elder R. H. Moody, $10 paid; Elder E. A. Poe, $10 paid.

The Association then raised $20, for Foreign Missions by the following: I. Oxford, $2; J. B. Green, $1; J. Reed, $1; E. A. Poe, $5; J. Eller, $1; H. Curtis, $1; B. Watts, $1; J. H. West, $1; S. Furguson, $1; R. L. Steele, $1; R. C. Harrington, $1; J. Watts, $1; S. Danner, $1; E. C. Oxford, $1; J. W. West, $1.

Appointed the next Association to be held with the New Hope church, Wilks county, N. C., ten miles North-west from Wilksboro to commence on Friday before the 3rd Lord's day in October, 1864.

Elder James Reed to preach the Introductory sermon, Elder R. L. Steele his alternate.

On motion, adjourned until the time and place appointed. Prayer by Elder James Reed.

SMITH FURGUSON, Mod'r.

R. L. Steele, *Clerk.*

SABBATH.

The stand was filled by the brethren appointed, who preached to a large and well ordered congregation. After the second sermon a collection was taken for Army Missions, which, with what the Association had raised, amounted to $137 75; which was paid over to Elder James Reed, one of our delegates to the Convention to be applied to the purpose intended.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

CHURCHES.	COUNTY.	PASTORS.	POST-OFFICES.	Sabbaths.	DELEGATES' NAMES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by letter.	Restored.	By application.	Dis'd by letter.	Excluded.	Dead.	Total.	Contributions.
Concord,.....	Alexander,..	I. Oxford,.....	Taylorsville, ...	1	S. Dannor, G. W. McIntosh,.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	53	1·20
Centre,.....	Alexander,..	J. H. West and J. Reed,.....	Little Run,.....	3	*J. H. West, *J. Reed, E. C. Oxford,....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22	2 00
Dully Shola,...	Caldwell,..	I. Oxford,.....	Deal Mill.....	2	J. T. Shell, John Gryder,.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	2 50
Fishing Creek,	Wilkes,.....	S. P. Smith,....	Wilkesboro,....		*S. P. Smith,.....	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	50	1 75
Liberty Grove,	Alexander,..	S. Furguson,...	Taylorsville,....	4	B. Watts, J. Watts, R. L. Steele,.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	47	5 00
New Hope,.....	Wilkes,.....	J. McNeal,.....	Parlear's Creek,	4	*J. McNeal, P. Eller, J. Eller,.....	14	0	3	2	3	1	4	5	6 00
Sardis,.....	Caldwell,....	J. B. Powell and J. Smith,.....	Lenou,.....	3	Calvin Clark,.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	32	3 00
Taylorsville,....	Alexander,..	E. A. Belcher,.	Taylorsville,....	3	*S. Furguson, *I. Oxford, E. C. Harrington,	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	37	2 00
Taylor Spring,.	Iredell,.....	W. G. Brown,..	Poplar Bridge,.	2	*J. B. Green.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	1 00

Those marked thus * are ordained Ministers.

Appendix.

A.

REPORT ON THE CASE OF FISHING CREEK CHURCH.

The committee to whom was referred the case of Fishing Creek church and Letter of Grievance from Excluded Members and others, beg leave to make the following report:

We think it consistent with justice and our former practice to give Fishing Creek church clemency for one year to purge herself of Liquor Dealer's Manufacturers, &c., and we advise Fishing Creek church to reconsider her act of Exclusion of those two brethren, and recommend the Association to send a committee to help settle their difficulties. Committed appointed—Elders James McNeal, James Reed, J. B. Green, with the Moderator and Clerk of the Association.

ISAAC OXFORD, Chairman.

B.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

The subject of Sabbath Schools does not receive the attention which the merits of the subject demand. Every church should organize and keep constantly in operation a Sabbath School. It would tend to strengthen the church and furnish church members most useful employment for the Sabbath. Every Sabbath School should be furnished with Baptist Question Books. The necessary books can be obtained by applying to J. S. Purefoy, Forestville, N. C. Your committee would most earnestly call upon the families connected with our churches to engage heartily in the cause of Sabbath Schools, especially in these war times.

Respectfully submitted,

J. McNEAL.

C.

REPORT ON COLPORTAGE.

Your committee on Colportage submit the following:

Whereas, our country is in a distracted condition, and so many of our young men are in the field in its defence, and to a great extent destitute of the Gospel; Therefore we think the most efficient means

to supply this deficiency is through the agency of our Colporters, and to expedite this good work, every church and every christian should become an agent in taking up collections, by which Testaments and religious tracts may be purchased to distribute among them, that they may have the word of life to console them in their troubles and thereby many may be brought to a saving knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus.

Respectfully submitted.

J. B. GREEN.

D.

REPORT ON PERIODICALS.

Your Committee on Periodicals recommend the *Biblical Recorder* as the organ of the Baptists in N. C., as being an able and faithful exponent of Bible doctrine and in every respect well adapted to the improvement of the mind of its numerous readers both for religious and miscellaneous news, and should be patronized by our denomination. We also recommend the *Child's Index*. It is a very handsome and attractive paper for children and in every way suited to the use of Sabbath Schools.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES ELLER, Chairman.

E.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

We as a Baptist Association resolve that there is no subject connected with us as a denomination that requires more attention than the education of the ensuing generation. In view of the mighty vacuum in the world of mind occasioned by the devastation of war, it becomes our imperative duty to use our utmost exertions to thoroughly educate and fully develope the minds of the present generation. If we suffer our youths to grow up ignorant of the responsibilities, which must, from necessity, prematurely devolve upon them, we will by so doing give to our enemies a greater advantage then they could otherwise achieve. Let us therefore use all the means which we can command to keep up our common schools until we may be blessed with an opportunity to re-establish our schools of higher grade. We as an Association would recommend the revival of our school at Taylorsville, N. C., and earnestly solicit the patronage of the brethren and friends.

Respectfully submitted.

J. T. SHELL.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved, That it is inconsistent for ministers of the United Baptist Association to take the pastoral care of any of those churches which have left us on account of our Temperance principles.

Resolved, That we recommend the churches to advise their members not to sell their fruit to distillers to make brandy, as it can be converted to much better use.

Resolved, That we as an Association fully endorse the cause of the Southern Confederacy; and we advise all our brethren to discountenance desertion and to inculcate the principle that resistance to a tyrant is loyalty to God.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Body are due and are hereby tendered to the brethren and friends of the vicinity for the very kind manner in which they have entertained us during this meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received from the church,		$43 00
From Elder J McNeal for Hymns and other Books,		21 00
Treasurer last year,		8 00
		$72 00
Since last Association.		
From Elder I. Oxford for Books,		$2 40
From Elder Wm. Church for Hymn Books,		4 00
A. W. Vannoy for Hymn Books,		1 50
P. Eller, Hymn Book,		75
		$80 65
Cr.		
By Printing Minutes,	$45 00	
Clerks, compensation,	10 00	55 00
Balance on hand,		$25 65

P. ELLER, Treasurer.